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8-25-1811

## Letter from George Sibley to William Clark, August 25, 1811

George Champlin Sibley

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Fort Osage August 25<sup>th</sup>. 1811.

To Genl. Wm. Clark

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

I beg leave to refer you to my Letter of 15<sup>th</sup>. Inst<sup>t</sup>. which I forwarded to S<sup>t</sup>. Charles by a Safe hand & doubt not but it will reach you duly. A Boat from above arrived here last evening and is to depart this Morning for S<sup>t</sup>. Louis, which affords me an opportunity to drop you a line in Haste.-- A Mr. Kayaway alias Brazau arrived here th morning of the 23<sup>d</sup>. in 7 days from S<sup>t</sup>. Louis, who informs that he Saw Mr. Chouteau just before he Started, who told him that he had declined coming to Ft. Osage- He also says that about 50 of the Big Osage were at S<sup>t</sup>. Louis. Having no reason to question the veracity of this Gentleman and fearing that Something may have occurred to postpone the delivery of the Osage annuities, I am induced to address you this Letter principally for the purpose of <sup>g</sup>ur<sup>i</sup>ng the propriety of delivering these annuities by the middle of September-

I have already informed the Supt. of In. Tr. that I can discharge the annuities for 1810 & 1811 of of the Factory, on the presumption that they will certainly be paid early in September So as to give me time to make out & forward my order for 1812, which it is obvious I cannot well do 'till these annuities are paid, not knowing what articles will be wanted for them- Now if the delivery of these annuities be delayed 'till it is too late for me to order more goods, I Shall not be able to pay them without very great inconvenience and perhaps not at all, and in that case I presume no little confusion will be created- You will observe that if the annuities are not paid from this Factory, I Shall not have to order any Goods for the next year; <sup>but</sup> if they are, I Shall have to order more goods for the next year- and The Supt. In. Tr. Requires that my orders Shall reach him by the middle of October, to allow ample time for him to lay in the Goods and Send them to Pittsburgh early in the Spring- The present interruption of our foreign commerce, will no doubt make it unusually difficult to procure Indian Goods in our Atlantic Cities, & it will therefore Require more time

than usual to furnish the orders from the different Trading Houses.

The Sup<sup>t</sup>. In. Tr. has instructed me to use my best endeavors to obviate and remove whatever dissatisfaction the operations of the Non intercourse Law may occasion among the Indians in this quarter; it being apprehended that the usual Supply of Canada Goods will be <sup>short</sup> this year, and that the Agents of the British Gov<sup>t</sup>. may use this ~~interru-~~ intimation (?) as a means ~~to~~ to excite unfriendly dispositions against the U. S. among the Indians- I beg leave to suggest this is another Strong motive for hastening the delivery of the Osage annuities, as I am convinced they will be the means of keeping the Osages quiet and firm in their attachment to the U. S. particularly if they Receive them in time to answer for their fall equipment.

You will at once See that these Remarks are offered Solely with the view of preventing unnecessary confusion in my business, and not by any means to interfere with the annuities any further than they are connected at present with my duty-

About Sixty families of the Little Osage will be here by the 10<sup>th</sup>. of Sep<sup>t</sup>. they are now about 100 miles S<sup>o</sup>. S<sup>o</sup>. W of this place on a considerable branch of the Arkansaw called Ne, osho, where they are building their Town and intend to Reside- Fear of the Mississippi Indians has driven them from this vicinity-

I will be extremely thankful to you if you will Send me a copy of the Law passed at the last Session of Congress Respecting Indian Trading Houses- I have heard that Some material alterations have been made in the Law, & am anxious to know them that I may not be groping in the dark.

If not already forwarded, I must beg of you to hasted (sic) on the Goods for this Factory- I Shall need the powder-

very Respectfully Sir

Y<sup>r</sup>. Ob<sup>t</sup>. H. S<sup>v</sup>t.

G. C. Sibley

Gen<sup>l</sup> W<sup>m</sup>. Clark

S<sup>t</sup>. Louis

Mr. Sanguinett